

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XVI, No. 10, October, 1918

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Fourth Liberty Loan.—The Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, which opens on September 28, 1918, and closes on October 19, provides a field for direct war work which no patriotic practitioner can shirk.

The size of the loan, certainly six billion dollars, probably eight billion, is huge. No sum approaching it in proportions has ever been gathered for any purpose by any nation, nor at one time, by any group of nations. Until the Great War made the daily expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars common, the mention of such a loan would have seemed the wildest fancy. . . .

Fifty Thousand Medical Officers.—With an army of three million men in the field in September, 1918, or in training and as contemplated, an expansion of this force to five million men, the Surgeon-General must have in the Medical Reserve Corps at least fifty thousand doctors. The Medical Reserve Corps must keep pace in growth with the army expansion and it behooves every doctor in the United States between the ages of 21 and 55, who is physically, morally and professionally fit, at the earliest possible moment, to arrange his personal affairs so as to offer his services to his country in the capacity of a medical officer. The United States is in the war to win and this can only be accomplished by a large and well-trained body of troops adequately cared for by a sufficient number of medical officers. The importance of the doctor's service and its relation to the successful outcome of the war cannot be overestimated. . . .

Volunteer Medical Service Corps.—To date [October, 1918] about 40,000 of the 144,116 doctors in the United States—not including the more than 5,000 women doctors—either are in Government service or have volunteered their services. Up to July 12 the Surgeon-General had recommended to the Adjutant-General 26,733 doctors for commission in the Medical Reserve Corps. About 9,000 others who applied were rejected. With the 1,194 in the Medical Corps of the National Guard and 1,600 in the Navy, the total—38,527—constitutes 26.73 per cent of the civilian doctors. Deducting those who declined their commissions or who have been discharged because of subsequent physical disability or other cause, the number actually commissioned in the Medical Reserve Corps stands (August 23) at 23,531, with several hundred recommended whose commissions are pending. Of the 23,531 there are 22,232 now on active duty. . . .

Important Change in United States Employment Conditions.—The supplying of war industries with common labor will be immediately centralized in the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor, and all independent recruiting of common labor by manufacturers having a pay roll of more than one hundred men will be diverted to the United States Employment Service. This is in accordance with the decision of the War Labor Policies Board and approved by the President on June 17. (The War Labor Policies Board is composed of representatives of the War, Navy, and Agricultural Departments, the Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation, the

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By N. F. SCATENA, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

The annual meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners will be held in Sacramento, California, October 18 to 21, 1943, at which time written examinations will be held for physicians and surgeons. Legal hearings are also scheduled for this meeting as well as hearings on petitions for restoration of certificates heretofore revoked, and on petitions for modification of terms of probation heretofore imposed.

An oral examination is scheduled to be held at the Board office in San Francisco on November 18, 1943, at 10 a. m.

News

"The State Board of Medical Examiners today announced those who successfully passed examinations for physicians, surgeons, chiroprodists, and drugless practitioners, held in San Francisco in the last three months. The highest mark for physicians and surgeons—91 plus per cent—was made by Herbert N. Hultgren of San Francisco, a graduate of the Stanford School of Medicine. . . ." (San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, August 28, 1943.)

"Urgent need for 600 women doctors who will be commissioned in the Navy in ranks from lieutenant commander to lieutenant (junior grade) was announced yesterday by the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. They would enter the Medical Corps, not the Women's Reserve, and would serve in the United States, relieving men doctors for duty on war fronts." (Los Angeles *Times*, August 21, 1943.)

"Medical schools have speeded up their courses by condensing four years' work into three. Nearly 7,000 doctors a year are being graduated by the sixty-six approved schools." (Biggs *News*, August 27, 1943.)

Sulpha drugs may be prescribed by chiroprodists in the treatment of the human foot, Attorney-General Robert W. Kenny ruled yesterday in an opinion to the Board of Medical Examiners." (Los Angeles *Examiner*, August 10, 1943.)

"More progress in science's fight to produce penicillin, the latest 'miracle drug,' was reported today by Dr. Charles E. Clifton, Stanford University bacteriologist. . . . Doctor Clifton, pondering how to produce the 'yellow magic' faster, thought he might be able to grow penicillin in a continuous flow somewhat similar to vinegar conversion. Laboratory experiments confirmed his ideas, and now the drug can be made continuously and at relatively great speed. . . ." (San Francisco *News*, September 10, 1943.)

"Attorney-General Robert W. Kenny today sought White House aid for the continuation of medical and nursing service to tenants of war-housing projects in California. Acting as the head of the California Housing and Planning Association, Kenny telegraphed President Roosevelt that a breakdown of the program is threatened through inability of the contracting Physicians' Service to continue under present financial arrangements. He asked the Presi-

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.